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Editorial.

Siftings.

Get out to the annual meeting of your Agricultural Society. Now is the time to make suggestions for the better management of next year's show.

"Cars, cars, waiting for cars!" comes the same old cry from different points where the wheat is waiting to be moved out; and still the railway officials say they have ample transportation facilities. It would be much better satisfaction to the farmers if they had them when they are needed.

In arranging for next year's show, every Agricultural Society should go carefully over the prize-list used last season and note changes that would be desirable. Rules should not be made to be broken, and none should be included that the directors are not prepared to enforce.

Edmonton has a street railway and a line factory under consideration, and indications say they'll come very soon. Who says the northern city is not forging ahead?

It is estimated that building operations in the town of Arcola this year have amounted to \$100,000, and the proposed building for next year is said to exceed that amount.

As a cure for the troubles arising from strikes, a noted American economist is advocating a policy of organizing manufacturers into a Mutual Insurance Company, to which workmen who are not members of trades unions may be admitted and insured against loss of pay in time of strikes.

The first shipment of apples ever consigned directly from British Columbia to Great Britain crossed the Atlantic a short time ago. They were mainly Northern Spies, and were grown near Okanagan Lake at Kelowna.

Territorial Grain-growers, at their annual convention, might consider the present lumber combine question with good effect. There is need for united action in this as in other matters.

Every Territorial grain-grower should be interested in the annual meeting of the Association, to be held in Regina, December 16th to 17th. See that your local association has properly appointed delegates who will attend. There is plenty of work still for the association to do.

Every town in the West of any importance has a Board of Trade to look after its commercial interests. Why should the Grain-growers' Associations not continue along similar lines in the interests of the farmer? The marketing of his wheat and other matters are of commercial importance to him.

The Royal Agricultural Society, of New Westminster, has decided to hold a live-stock judging contest at its next exhibition, to be held in Oct., 1904. This society is on the right track to educate the young farmer.

Manitoba Agricultural Societies.

In view of the annual meeting of Manitoba Agricultural Societies, to be held on Dec. 14th, the Chief Clerk of the Department of Agriculture has issued a circular to local secretaries, calling attention to the importance of this meeting, and the necessity of having a large attendance and creating a greater interest in the affairs of the society generally.

It is probably unnecessary to remind every member of an agricultural society that he owes it to himself and to the welfare of his district to be present at this annual meeting, and do everything in his power to further the cause of agriculture within the Province. Agricultural societies, from one coast of Canada to the other, and in the United States as well, have become potent factors in the general welfare of the farming community in which they operate, and it is safe to say that invariably the more intelligent and progressive farmers are the most active members.

In summing up the year's experience, every agricultural society which held a summer or fall fair should be able to draw some conclusions that would aid in laying plans for a more successful show next year. We are, undoubtedly, living in an age of rapid advancement, and agricultural societies, as individuals, should be making progress from year to year. Comparing Manitoba with other Provinces of the Dominion, and even with the Northwest Territories, it must be admitted that in the general management of agricultural societies the Wheat Province is in some important respects behind the times. Everyone who has given the subject of agricultural shows any special study, will agree that the selection of competent and conscientious judges to place the principal awards has much to do with the success of a show. In Manitoba, as is well known, each society has been making its own selection, and in some cases properly qualified men have been secured, but in many others the judges have been unable to do justice to either the society for which they acted, the exhibitors or the visitors who come for instruction. In every other Province of the Dominion, as well as the Territories, where any number of agricultural shows are held, the local Department of Agriculture has become responsible for the selection and payment of judges in at least the live-stock classes. It has also become responsible for arranging the fairs, as far as possible, in circuits, and on dates that enable a party of judges to visit a number of fairs without too great an expenditure of time. To say that this system has proved most satisfactory is only giving it due credit. In Ontario, in 1902, upwards of sixty agricultural societies applied to the Department of Agriculture for a place upon a circuit, and so gratifying were the results that last season nearly double that number had to be supplied with expert judges. In the Northwest Territories a similar experience has been recorded, and although the superintendent of agricultural societies at Regina hopes next year to have a larger number of the fairs in each district come in succession than was the case this year, yet fair directors and the public generally are earnest in their appreciation of what has been done already, knowing that a great advancement has been made in perfecting the usefulness of their annual exhibition.

As to whether Manitoba Agricultural Societies are to come more directly under direction of the Department of Agriculture will depend very large-

ly upon the action which each society takes at its annual meeting. The question is one of Provincial importance, and the "Farmer's Advocate" would suggest that a convention, composed of representatives from each society, be held somewhere in the Province at an early date, to consider methods of improving the summer or fall fair. There should be no difficulty in having such a meeting arranged. Perhaps no more convenient time could be selected than during the annual convention of stockmen to be held in February or March. At that time reduced rates could be secured, and the cost to each Agricultural Society would be only a small sum. Apart from the advisability of requesting the Provincial Department of Agriculture to become more intimately responsible for the management of the fairs, there are various other questions which might be discussed with profit, such as the proper classification of the prize-list; the necessity for attractions and means of making the fair a greater educator.

At the same time, the Institute meetings, being under the same management, might well be given due consideration, since there is a growing opinion that they too are not filling their highest mission as an educator. We, therefore, believe that every agricultural society should pass a resolution at its annual meeting on Dec. 14th, praying that the Provincial Department of Agriculture call a convention to discuss the situation. The time is undoubtedly ripe for some action in the matter. Let each agricultural society be heard from.

They Need Light.

Having been invited to make an exhibit at St. Louis World's Fair, the Dominion Live-stock Association has taken objection to certain conditions under which they will be obliged to show. Speaking of Canada's refusal to accept the arrangements as they are, the Live-stock World, Chicago, takes occasion to say: "This tempest is, doubtless, one of the eddies of the Alaska award whirlwind. On the whole, it is to be regretted that Canadian live-stock men are living on the other side of the International boundary-line, which, in the course of events, must be obliterated."

Our contemporary has, evidently, caught the idea that we would be justified in denouncing the Alaskan award. It would be unfortunate, however, should it continue to labor under the delusion that the International boundary is not likely to be maintained. Canada was never farther from annexation with the United States than to-day, and while we desire that a friendly relationship should be fostered between the two countries, the policy of coercion which has been pursued by the United States during the last few years has done more to establish deep within the hearts of the sons of the Dominion a spirit of true Canadianism than anything that has occurred within the last half century. Our Southern friends who do not believe that the boundary is there to stay, had better put themselves in a position to breathe a little of the pure air of Canadian national sentiment before they conclude that the boundary must be obliterated. Canada is for Canadians.

Every housekeeper who is interested in gardening should read the story by "Alar," in the Horticulture and Forestry Dept. of this issue. It is practical.